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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,512	02/07/2002	Cathleen M. Arsenault	57418US002	2889

32692 7590 11/16/2005

3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY  
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EXAMINER
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NICOLAS, FREDERICK C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3754

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/072,512	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ARSENAULT ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Frederick C. Nicolas	<b>Art Unit</b> 3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4-7 and 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/04&amp;8/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/20/2004 has been entered.

### ***Specification***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: brief description of Figure 5 is missing.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,4-7,12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sonntag 4,974,755.

Sonntag discloses a buffered dosing device for a liquid (col. 1, ll. 5-13), which comprises a main chamber (76) sized to hold more than one dose of the liquid, a dosing chamber (70) sized to hold one dose of the liquid, in fluidic communication with the main

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chamber, a shuttle (100) adapted for movement between a first position in which the liquid can flow between the main chamber and the dosing chamber and a second position in which the shuttle is depressed and seals the dosing chamber from the main chamber, and permits the liquid to exit the dosing chamber (col. 5, ll. 38-68 onto col. 6, ll. 1-15), a third position intermediate the first and second positions, in which no liquid can flow between the main chamber and the dosing chamber, and no liquid can escape from the dosing chamber (col. 6, ll. 16-68 onto col. 7, ll. 1-20)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonntag 4,974,755 in view of Sedam 4,703,870.

Sonntag has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the main chamber is refillable and can be refilled by removing a cap. Sedam teaches the use of providing a refillable reservoir (16) having a cap (34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Sedam's reservoir onto Sonntag's inlet conduit (18), in order to provide a removable and refillable liquid reservoir for the main chamber, as taught by Sedam in (col. 2, ll. 6-10).

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7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonntag 4,974,755 in view of Byrd et al. 3,865,281.

Sonntag has taught all the features of the claimed invention except that the dosing device in combination with a carrier tray. Byrd et al. teach the use of providing a dosing device (200) in combination with a carrier tray (240).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the carrier tray of Byrd et al. onto Sonntag's dispensing nozzle outlet as taught by Byrd et al. in (col. 7, ll. 56-67 onto col. 8, ll. 1-37), in order to provide a drip tray that receives and retains any spillage or leakage from the dosing device.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

8. Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

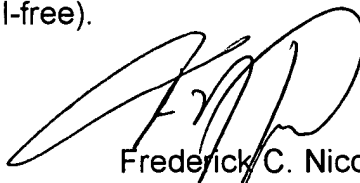
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick C. Nicolas whose telephone number is (571)-272-4931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Y. Mar, can be reached on 571-272-4906. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FN  
November 12, 2005

 11/12/05  
Frederick C. Nicolas  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3754